

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the above-identified application, and were rejected. With this Amendment, claims 11-18 were amended. Accordingly, claims 1-18 remain at issue in the above-identified application.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Indefiniteness Rejection of Claims

Claims 11-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant has amended claims 11-18 to recite "The information management apparatus" rather than "The information management method" to clarify the antecedent basis of these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Anticipation Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-13, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Tsutsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,391). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to information management method including generating protection information. The protection information protects the storage area of a recording medium from any recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus adapted to handle a first string of codes by a first coding technique. The storage area of the recording medium stores a second string of codes recorded by a second coding technique. The method also includes arranging the protection information in the first management data area as one of the first management data. The method further includes protecting the storage area of the medium storing the second string

of codes from any recording, editing and erasing operations of the first apparatus on the basis of the protection information when the medium storing the second string of codes is operated by the first apparatus.

Tsutsui et al. is directed to an information encoding/decoding method where if codes of an old standard and codes of a new standard are recorded on the same recording medium, signals of the old standard can be reproduced by the reproducing device designed compatible with the old standard, while signals of the new standard and those of the old standard can be reproduced by the reproducing device designed compatible with the new standard. See column 5, lines 19-28. Tsutsui et al. does not discuss editing or erasing signals recorded on the recording medium. Thus, Tsutsui et al. does not disclose or suggest generating protection information to protect the storage area of a recording medium from any recording, editing and erasing operations of a first apparatus adapted to handle a first string of codes by a first coding technique. Moreover, Tsutsui et al. also does not disclose or suggest arranging the protection information in the first management data area as one of the first management data, or protecting the storage area of the medium storing the second string of codes from any recording, editing and erasing operations of the first apparatus on the basis of the protection information when the medium storing the second string of codes is operated by the first apparatus. Accordingly, claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 6-8 that ultimately depend from claim 1 are allowable over Tsutsui et al.

For reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to Claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 10 and claims 11-13 and 15-17 that ultimately depend from claim 10 are also allowable over Tsutsui et al. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 5 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsutsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,391) in view of Nakashima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,708,650). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As discussed above, Tsutsui et al. does not disclose or suggest generating protection information, arranging the protection information, protecting the storage area, or means for performing these steps as required by claims 1 and 10. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Tsutsui et al. and Nakashima et al. to derive claims 5 and 14, which depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 9 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsutsui et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,391) in view of Takezawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,392,265). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.


As discussed above, Tsutsui et al. does not disclose or suggest generating protection information, arranging the protection information, protecting the storage area, or means for performing these steps as required by claims 1 and 10. Thus, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Tsutsui et al. and Takezawa et al. to derive claims 9 and 18, which ultimately depend from claims 1 and 10, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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